



NEWS RELEASE

September 9, 2002

Marine engineers to support Marfa construction project

A U.S. Border Patrol Marfa Sector initiative

MARFA, TX. --- Approximately 100 U.S. Marine Corps engineers will start arriving in Marfa in late September to construct new training facilities and improve current training capabilities for the U.S. Border Patrol Marfa Sector.

The active duty Marines, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., will construct the new training facilities at the present U.S. Border Patrol training site located at the Marfa Municipal Airport. The new facility will include an obstacle course, rappel tower, and a weapons firing range. Upgrades to the current obstacle course will include the installation of electrical support to allow for day and night training.

“The project will not only provide agents with a safer training environment, but will also contribute immeasurably to overall officer safety,” said Chief Patrol Agent Simon Garza.

“We welcome the Marines and look forward to the benefits resulting from their efforts. The facility will not only be used to train border patrol agents, but will also provide counterdrug and law enforcement training support to other local agencies,” said Garza..

The military construction support requested by the Marfa Sector was coordinated by Joint Task Force Six, the Department of Defense unit tasked to provide counterdrug support to the nation’s law enforcement agencies. These types of support missions provide the military with tremendous training opportunities that are directly related to their military duties.

“It is important to note that the Marines volunteered to accomplish this project. As a direct result of their efforts, we will be better prepared to respond to emergency situations and execute our law enforcement duties along our border,” said Garza.

The Marines will establish a base camp at the Marfa airport and are scheduled to stay through the end of October. Base camp and work site security will be maintained by the U.S. Border Patrol.

“The Marines will require local logistical support for construction materials, fuel, housing, and food. Our communities and local businesses will also benefit greatly during their stay,” said Garza.

~ USBP ~

Contact:	Public Affairs/Information Office	(915) 729-5200
	Pablo Caballero	(915) 729-5472 (Fax)
	Public Affairs Officer	
	Internet: www.usborderpatrol.gov	